

Murders June 23, 1961  
V. Ashley, Andrew?

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# Woman Sought; Incident Second In Two Days

JUN 24 1961

Andrew T. Ashley, 3½-year-old North Park boy, was missing from home early today and Colvin Station police suspected a tall, slender woman in her mid-30s might have kidnaped him. Andrew disappeared only three blocks from where another little boy was kidnaped, bound and gagged by a woman the day before:

Andrew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Ashley of Apartment A, 195 Jewett Pky., left home about 4 yesterday afternoon after telling his mother he intended to play with neighbor children.

His distraught mother notified police when her son had not returned home by 8 last night. A massive search involving more than 100 policemen including Civil Defense auxiliaries and New York Central Railroad and New York Central Railroad and New York Central Railroad and New York Central Railroad police was under way this morning.

The suggestion little Andrew had disappeared in company of a strange woman came from Edwin J. Ehrne of 225 Parkside Ave. The Ashley apartment is at Jewett Pky. and Parkside.

Ehrne, who knew the little Ashley boy, said he saw the youngster in the company of a woman about 35 years old about 4 o'clock, shortly after the boy left home. The woman had Andrew by the hand and was leading him toward the Buffalo Zoo, directly across the street from the Ashley apartment house, Ehrne said.

Ehrne described the woman as slender, five feet seven or eight inches tall, with dark hair, hatless and wearing a neutral-colored raincoat. Andrew showed a definite reluctance to accompany her, Ehrne said.

Capt. James J. O'Donnell of Colvin Station organized the search. Besides his own men, he had help from Headquarters B Squad, the Auto and Crime Prevention Bureaus.

The New York Central added a motorized flatcar equipped with lights to the search. Manned by several railroad police and two city patrolmen, it moved slowly along the Central's "belt-line" right of way



Andrew T. Ashley  
... object of search

while the men aboard searched the embankment.

Capt. O'Donnell also accepted the offer of about a dozen Civil Defense auxiliary policemen from his precinct to help in the search. He put them immediately to work.

### Mental Hospitals Checked In Effort to Locate Woman

The Colvin Station skipper also asked vicinity mental hospitals to check their lists to determine whether a recently discharged woman patient is living in North Buffalo.

If Andrew is not found by daylight, Capt. O'Donnell said, he will organize a really large-scale search of the neighborhood. This will include a house-to-house canvass in search of the boy and the woman suspect, a job that may take days, O'Donnell said.

### Search in 1936 Recalled For Slayer of Girl

Veteran policemen said the last time such a search was

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# Boy, 3½, Missing; Parkside Combed

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undertaken was in 1936 at the time of the murder of Mary Ellen Babcock. Commissioner James Higgins at that time ordered a house-to-house canvass of South Buffalo for the girl's slayer.

Police revealed that the description of the woman seen with Andrew and suspected of the Thursday abduction is similar to that of a Sycamore St. woman who disappeared from her home Tuesday. The search for her was intensified.

### Zoo Grounds Searched Twice by Policemen

Capt. O'Donnell and his men made the zoo one of the first targets of their search. They went through the grounds shortly after they learned Andrew was missing.

The captain later decided to make a second and more thorough search of the grounds. He asked the Fire Department to provide lights for this second search.

The police underwater recovery team also was alerted for action. If the boy has not been found by late morning, the skin-divers will make a

### search of Delaware Park Lake.

Several busloads of Canadian youngsters visited the zoo yesterday. So Capt. O'Donnell conferred with Canadian immigration authorities on the possibility Andrew went aboard one of the buses. Canadian authorities determined he had not.

Mrs. Ashley described her son as "a real friendly boy, but sometimes shy with strangers."

"I told him several times never to talk with strange people, and as far as I know he never has crossed Parkside Ave. alone," she said.

Andrew, an intelligent boy in the opinion of neighbors, and his parents have lived in the Jewett-Parkside apartment about three years. His father was graduated from Canisius College last Sunday. Andrew has a 20-month-old brother, Mark A.

Richard Edgington, 5, of 81 Saranac Ave. was kidnaped by a woman of the same general description Thursday. Richard was left bound, gagged and with a plastic bag over his head on the New York Central right of way at Linden and Parkside only three blocks from the Ashley apartment.

### Boy Frees Himself And Finds Way to House

Richard managed to work himself free. He scrambled up the railroad embankment, climbed a fence and made his way to the home of Mrs. James Phillips of 33 Linden Ave.

Mrs. Phillips called his mother, Mrs. John W. Edgington who notified police. Richard said the woman had urged him to leave his yard by promising to take him to the zoo and also by threatening him.

Richard, scratched and bruised, said his kidnaper finally led him to the railroad embankment, partly undressed him, bound his hands and feet with twine, stuffed a cloth gag in his mouth and pulled the bag over his head. Then she walked away.